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*The Aeneid for Boys and Girls*; told from Vergil in simple language.

By ALFRED J. CHURCH, M. A. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1908. Pp. 300.

Those who have read and enjoyed Church's former works, "The *Iliad* for Boys and Girls" and "The *Odyssey* for Boys and Girls," will welcome this similar treatment of the *Aeneid*. Perhaps we are wrong in assuming that the great classical epics need any simplification in order to suit them to the youthful understanding and interest. Children understand and appreciate a great deal more in literature than they are given credit for; and the average boy can probably enjoy Homer from a good translation, without any process of literary predigestion performed by others in his behalf.

But, entirely aside from the question of the need of any simplification of Homer and Vergil, and without raising the question as to whether the child would not much better approach these authors by way of their unchanged works in good translation, we welcome Mr. Church's books, for they are well written, in good, straightforward, simple English, and put the reader easily and quickly in possession of the story as a whole. This, unfortunately, the ordinary student of Vergil rarely gets. Occupied as he is from day to day with the mastering of a small portion of the poem, he cannot appreciate the relation of the parts, or get anything like a comprehensive view of the whole. On this account, if for no other, the book before us is valuable, and we commend it not alone to children but to older students as well.

The book is divided into chapters, each devoted to one particular story in the *Aeneid*. These are set in chronological order, and cover the whole poem in their scope. The value of the book is further enhanced by twelve colored illustrations.

F. J. MILLER

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*Selected Epigrams of Martial*. With Introduction and Notes. By

EDWIN POST. Boston: Ginn and Company, 1908. Pp. li + 402.

\$1.50.

Of the three hundred epigrams which Mr. Post has selected for this edition of Martial there are few whose presence can be generally deplored. His text is Lindsay's excepting some thirty readings; since these usually do not much affect the sense one need not demand too urgently his reasons for taking a good *b* where Lindsay accepts a good *c* reading, or (rarely) vice versa, and for frequently preferring Heinsius to satisfactory MSS.

The book's chief and familiar defect is that it is written for both undergraduate and instructor. The results, in detail, of a thorough use of a rather formidable bibliography and copious quotations from various Latin authors paralleling or explaining Martial's sentiments students of course will carefully ignore. Of an extraordinarily large number of superfluous and wordy paraphrases of Martial's

clearest and most pointed remarks, of several unusual interpretations of the epigrammatist's meaning, of some indifferent translations, and of certain recurring descriptive phrases instructors can hardly be unconscious.

The introduction is good, though Mr. Post is occasionally inclined to cull biographical data from only a few epigrams and to approach a joke too reverentially. Reflections on the poet's insomnia, filial ingratitude, and poverty are illustrations. Reference to Martial's brilliancy and delicacy of touch is accompanied by no allusion to his savage slugging; characterization of the poet as a polite beggar is attended by no comment upon his impoliteness when the receipts were unsatisfactory. Oltramare's essay would have been suggestive here.

The notes often contain more collateral information than can be gathered from all other editions collectively, though Flach's commentary on Book I does not seem to have been consulted. In only a half-dozen places could additional explanation be desired. In only a half-dozen cases, too, would further aid to translation be advisable; at fully a half-hundred points less would suffice. The full implication of pregnant words is seldom allowed to escape the reader; sometimes indeed, a word has perhaps seemed more significant to Mr. Post than it was to Martial. Alternative interpretations and simplified reconstructions of the epigrammatist's sentences are numerous, the latter unnecessarily so. The indices are helpful and complete. It is clearly a book upon which much time has been spent; and it is undoubtedly the best college edition of the poet available.

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